In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, lines 28 through 33 continuing to page 12, lines 1 through 18 with the following paragraph:

Biochemical analysis of thymic lysates prepared from adult N15 TCRtg RAG-$2^{-/-}$ H-2^{b} mice using biotin-DEVDamk confirms the induction of an active caspase within 2 hours after tail vein injection of VSV8 antigen (RGYVYQGL) (SEQ ID NO: 9). This enzyme activation is specifically induced, as it is not activated in control (PBS) or animals treated with the irrelevant Sendai virus-derived peptide (FAPGNYPAL; SEQ ID NO: 4) (SEV9). Pretreatment of the thymic lysates with an excess of the irreversible inhibitor zVADfmk prevents binding of the biotin-DEVDamk to the caspase, while the chemically-related control compound zVADmk, a compound identical to zVADfmk (Figure 1) except for the absence of the fluoride atom which is required for the irreversible inhibition of caspases, does not. zVADmk also has no effect on antigen-induced depletion of DP thymocytes in FTOC or the appearance of TUNEL positive cells in histological sections upon VSV8 peptide treatment of FTOC. Thus, the zVADfmk which blocks depletion of DP thymocytes in FTOC also blocks binding of the biotin-DEVDamk to its substrate. These results support the conclusion that the caspase functionally inhibited by zVADfmk in FTOC is the same as that detected by biotin-DEVDamk by Western blot analysis. Activation of this caspase is the molecular basis for negative selection of DP thymocytes.

Amendments to the specification are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (page i).

In the Claims

Please cancel Claims 65 and 67.

Please amend Claims 41, 45, 63 and 66. Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (pages i - iii).